



2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Lake Ontario Waterkeeper's vision ...

RESTORE water quality in Lake Ontario so that public rights to swim, drink and eat are returned ...

ENTRENCH these rights in communities around Lake Ontario through a legacy of education, empowerment and an expert network ...

CREATE a model of watershed protection for Canada and the Great Lakes.

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A letter from the President



To our friends and supporters ...

I am proud to present Lake Ontario Waterkeeper's 2006 Annual Report. Waterkeeper is a registered charity, dedicated to winning back clean water and ensuring every community on this lake has access to environmental justice.

Experience tells us that clean water depends on empowered communities. Canada's and Ontario's democratic system and legal tools will protect the health and future of every community only when those communities have the resources, respect and training they need to be part of the decision-making process.

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper fights to ensure clean water for every community on the lake - regardless of historic pollution, economic influence, or political clout. We fight to protect clean water and natural resources. We fight to win back what have lost.

In early 2006, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper went public with our concerns about mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants and the environmental and human health risks associated with inaptly named "alternative fuels" in cement kilns. In each case, we used legal tools available to every Ontarian

to protect communities in the face of government inaction.

In the summer of 2006, Waterkeeper brought on our first Social Justice Articling Fellow, sponsored by the Law Foundation of Ontario. This full-time, three-year staff position helps Waterkeeper increase access to environmental justice at the grassroots level.

In September 2006, Waterkeeper launched one of the most rewarding and unique projects in our organization's five-year history: Heart Of A Lake. This three-city, four-day tour brought arts and activism together. It featured the talent and vision of Trustee for Lake Ontario Gord Downie, poet Tanis Rideout, and dancer Andrea Nann. Heart Of A Lake brought the Waterkeeper story to stages in Whitby, Port Hope and Kingston. In front of live audiences of hundreds of people, we talked about environmental justice and created a forum to recognize the efforts of local heroes.

You can read more about our efforts in the "Year in Review". Month by month we highlight some of the developments that affect water quality, environmental rights, and the growth of our organization. These highlights represent just a small part of Waterkeeper's world. To follow the issues, you may wish to subscribe to our free, weekly emails news service, **Waterkeeper.ca Weekly**, and upcoming radio show and podcast, **Living at the Barricades**.

At the end of 2006, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper joined forces with Waterkeeper Alliance at the Fairmont Banff Springs Sports Invitational. Held in January, 2007, this fundraising event was a huge success. We look forward to the new year, 2007, with optimism and focus.

Mark Mattson
Waterkeeper & President

The year in review

January: Charges laid in Red Hill expressway construction



The Ontario Ministry of Environment charged Consbec Inc. with discharging a contaminant into the natural environment after blasting of the Niagara Escarpment for the Red Hill Valley Expressway sent debris flying

through the air. Ministry of Environment investigators took up the case in summer 2004 after Waterkeeper and Environment Hamilton submitted their brief with media reports, legal precedents, and a description of the incidents.

February: Waterkeeper fights for better Ontario energy plan

Waterkeeper filed an official response to Ontario's proposed electricity plan. Waterkeeper recommended that Ontario: eliminate all harmful emissions; understand the potential for conservation before committing to building new energy plants; prepare a legitimate and independent analysis of the environmental impacts of nuclear power; hold a proper hearing; and, develop a strict strategy to ensure all energy plants protect air and water.

March: Challenge to tire-burning plan



Waterkeeper and Waterkeeper Trustee Gord Downie filed their first official submission to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, recommending that Lafarge Canada Inc.'s request to burn tires and other waste at its cement kiln in Bath be

denied. Lafarge's plan involves offering to accept waste – consisting of pellets, tires, and other non-recyclable plastics – to help reduce costs. The request to deny permits for the plan reflected serious concerns about the effects of tire-burning on human and environmental health, especially in relation to the release of dangerous toxins. This comment kick-started a multi-year battle over Lafarge's proposal.

April: Engineers found guilty after Riverkeeper, Waterkeeper investigate

In a landmark decision, a New Brunswick provincial court judge found engineering firm Gemtec guilty of violating the Fisheries Act when leachate from a Moncton landfill was found to be contaminating the Petitcodiac River. The decision marked the first time an engineering firm has been accountable for knowingly drafting and implementing a plan that may not meet Fisheries Act requirements. The charges came in response to a brief submitted to Environment Canada by the Petitcodiac Riverkeeper Daniel LeBlanc and the Lake Ontario Waterkeeper Mark Mattson.

May: Defending the Fisheries Act

Waterkeeper, along with the other Canadian Waterkeepers, filed their objection to the federal government's plan to weaken the Fisheries Act, Canada's strongest and most effective law for protecting fish habitat and making polluters accountable. The plan included an alteration to regulation that controls the quality of mining effluent and would allow mining companies to dump mining waste into natural ponds, destroying fish habitat forever.

June: Aggregate industry threatens Escarpment lands

On June 30, 2006 Waterkeeper filed its official objection to Nelson Aggregate Inc.'s proposal to turn precious rural land on the Niagara Escarpment into a quarry. Local group Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL), led by environmental advocate and musician Sarah Harmer, also filed an objection. The objection argued that Nelson sought to open the quarry in an environmentally sensitive area without sufficient study, assurances that its engineering practices will be up to date, or proper transparency. Meanwhile, Neslon continued to be under investigation by Conservation Halton for dredging and filling without permits. In 1990, UNESCO designated the Escarpment as a World Biosphere Reserve.

July: Ontario exempts its own energy plan from environmental scrutiny

Waterkeeper filed a formal objection to a new regulation that releases Ontario's energy plan from the provincial environmental assessment process. In June of 2006, the provincial government chose to create a special exemption for its energy blueprint – the Integrated Power System Plan – despite several months of heated public consultation, as well as numerous calls for increased scrutiny. The energy plan contained enormous undertakings – with the potential for massive environmental impacts.

August: US Coast Guard dumps waste into Great Lakes



Waterkeeper responded to a proposed change to the US Coast Guard's "cargo sweeping" regulation. Cargo sweeping involves the discharge of waste material into the water. In 2004-2005, U.S.-flag carriers dumped more than 653,000

pounds of iron ore, 219,000 pounds of coal, 228,000 pounds of limestone, and 11,300 pound of other material into the Great Lakes – an astounding total. Waterkeeper filed an official comment on the Coast Guard's proposed rule based on fears that the new regulation would undermine existing environmental protections. Cargo sweeping is illegal under both the federal Fisheries Act and the provincial Ontario Public Lands Act.

September: Gord Downie & Waterkeeper on the 'Heart of a Lake Tour'



Beginning on September 19, 2006, Waterkeeper presented the 'Heart of a Lake Tour' featuring musician and Trustee for Lake Ontario Gord Downie, Waterkeeper for Lake Ontario Mark Mattson, poet Tannis Rideout, dancer Andrea Nann, and contributions from local community ambassadors. The tour stopped in Whitby, Port Hope, and Kingston for an evening of music, poetry,

dance, and stories of environmental justice. "Heart of a Lake was inspired by ordinary people's struggles to win back what they've lost: Clean water. Access to their harbours. The respect of government and industry," said Downie.

October: Clean Water Workshop expands

Each year, Waterkeeper teams up with Pro Bono Students Canada to run the Clean Water Workshop. The Workshop is a volunteer project for law students looking for hands-on experience in environmental law and Waterkeepers who need research assistance. In previous years, law students helped research appeals, draft submissions under the Environmental Bill of Rights, and study compliance issues. In October 2006, Waterkeeper collaborated with five other Canadian Waterkeeper programs, seven law schools, and twenty-seven students to work on some of Canada's most pressing water quality issues.

November: Nuclear hearings in Port Hope

Over the years, Port Hope's air, water, and soil have become contaminated by nuclear and nuclear-related waste. The CNSC held hearings on November 28th and 29th to decide whether or not to re-license Cameco's uranium facilities in Port Hope. Waterkeeper's presentation included requests that the licenses expire unless Cameco brings itself into compliance with its license conditions, imposes stricter emissions standards in the current license, and add a condition mandating compliance with important provincial and federal environmental legislation.

December: Waterkeeper report reveals troubling trends at Ontario beaches

On December 4, 2006, Waterkeeper released its 2006 Beach Report. The Report presented information concerning beach closures at forty beaches along Lake Ontario for the 2006 bathing season. The report also included a comparison of beach closures for the past three years, based on Waterkeeper's ongoing monitoring program. While some municipalities made improvements from 2005, a high beach closure rate continued to cause serious concern. Not one municipality met Ontario's standards for a clean beach in three years of study.

To read Waterkeeper's submissions or newsletters on any of these issues, please visit our new web site:

www.waterkeeper.ca

Our Team

	<p>Staff</p> <p>Mark Mattson: Waterkeeper & President</p> <p>Krystyn Tully: Vice President</p> <p>Kaija Siirala: Assistant to the Waterkeeper</p> <p>Laura Bowman: Social Justice Articling Student</p>	<p>Pro Bono Students</p> <p>Aaron Power</p> <p>Aislinn Reid</p> <p>Cindy Kieu</p> <p>Cory Schneider</p> <p>Daniel MacDonald</p> <p>David Mueller</p> <p>David Peaker</p> <p>Ibrahima Ndao</p> <p>James</p> <p>Jeremie Benchitrit</p> <p>Jesse Krugler</p> <p>Joanna Wice</p> <p>Jordan Smith</p> <p>Josh Lowney</p> <p>Julia Croome</p> <p>Kim Broome</p> <p>Marcy Keens</p> <p>Matthew Scott</p> <p>Meg Bolohan</p> <p>Michael Scott Connors</p> <p>Nicholas LeBlanc</p> <p>Noel Corriveau</p> <p>Ryan MacKenzie</p> <p>Tiffany Sun</p>
	<p>Board of Directors</p> <p>Yvan Champagne</p> <p>Nora Osbaldeston</p> <p>Hal Mattson</p> <p>John Rishworth</p> <p>Janet Thompson</p>	
	<p>Trustees for Lake Ontario</p> <p>Gord Downie</p> <p>Adele Hurley</p> <p>Francois Parenteau</p> <p>Moses Znaimer</p>	

Thank you to our supporters

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper appreciates the generosity of all individuals and organizations who support our work. Because of federal and provincial privacy considerations, we do not publish the names of our individual donors.

The organizations listed below made charitable contributions of \$1,000 or more in 2006. We are grateful for their invaluable support:

Law Foundation of Ontario

The McLean Foundation

Ontario Sewer & Watermain Construction Association

Percy Gardiner Foundation

Wolfe Island Wildlife Association

We would also like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to our spectacular ideaCity06 live auction fundraiser:

CHUM Television

Karen Percy-Lowe

ideaCity Conference

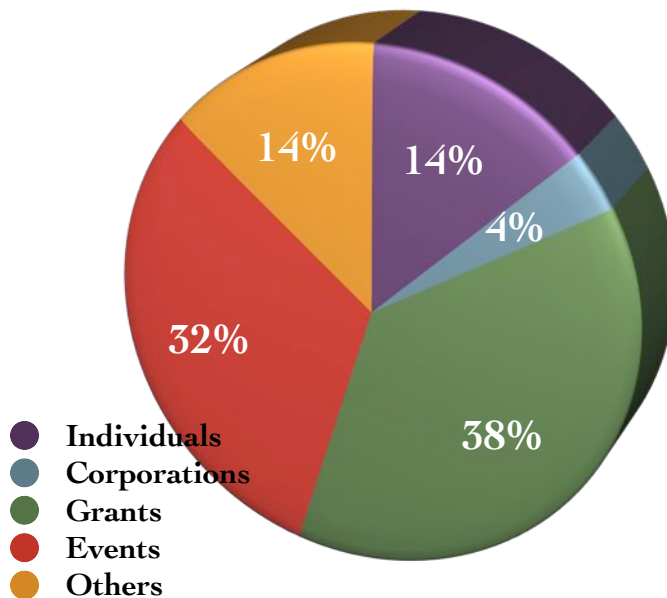
Mike Papantonio

Moses Znaimer

Financial information

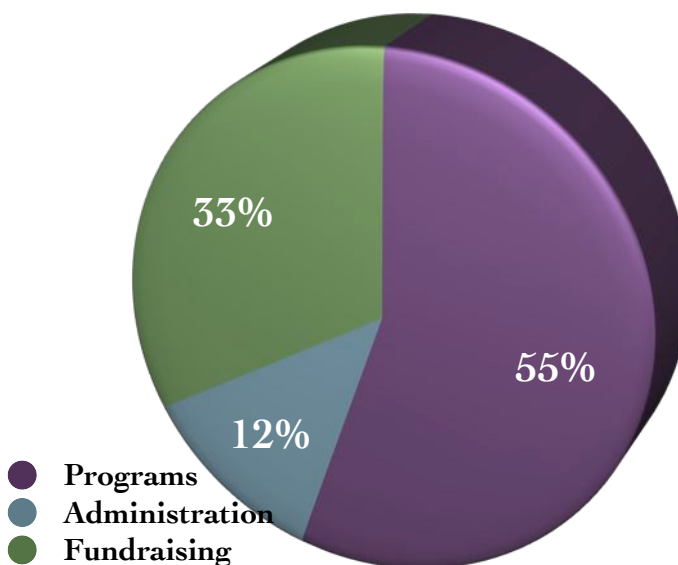
2006 Revenues

Revenue Source	Amount (\$)
Foundation & Association Grants	16,000
Individual Donations	30,375
Corporate Donations	8,200
Other Grants	67,880
Special Events	70,024
Fees	27,859
Merchandise	1,081
Miscellaneous	1,179
TOTAL REVENUE	222,598



2006 Expenses

Expenses	Amount (\$)
Amortization of Capital Assets	4,386
Boat Expenses	11,515
Field & Workshop Expenses	9,422
Fundraising	61,157
Office & Administration	15,256
Marketing & Communications	12,576
Travel & Hospitality	5,513
Training & Conferences	6,928
Wages, Benefits & Consulting	174,366
TOTAL EXPENSES	301,119



Hard copies of our complete audited statements are available upon request. Just email your request to us at admin@waterkeeper.ca.